WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

Story & Art by

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volume 6

STAGE.45 Solitary Profile

WHISTLE!

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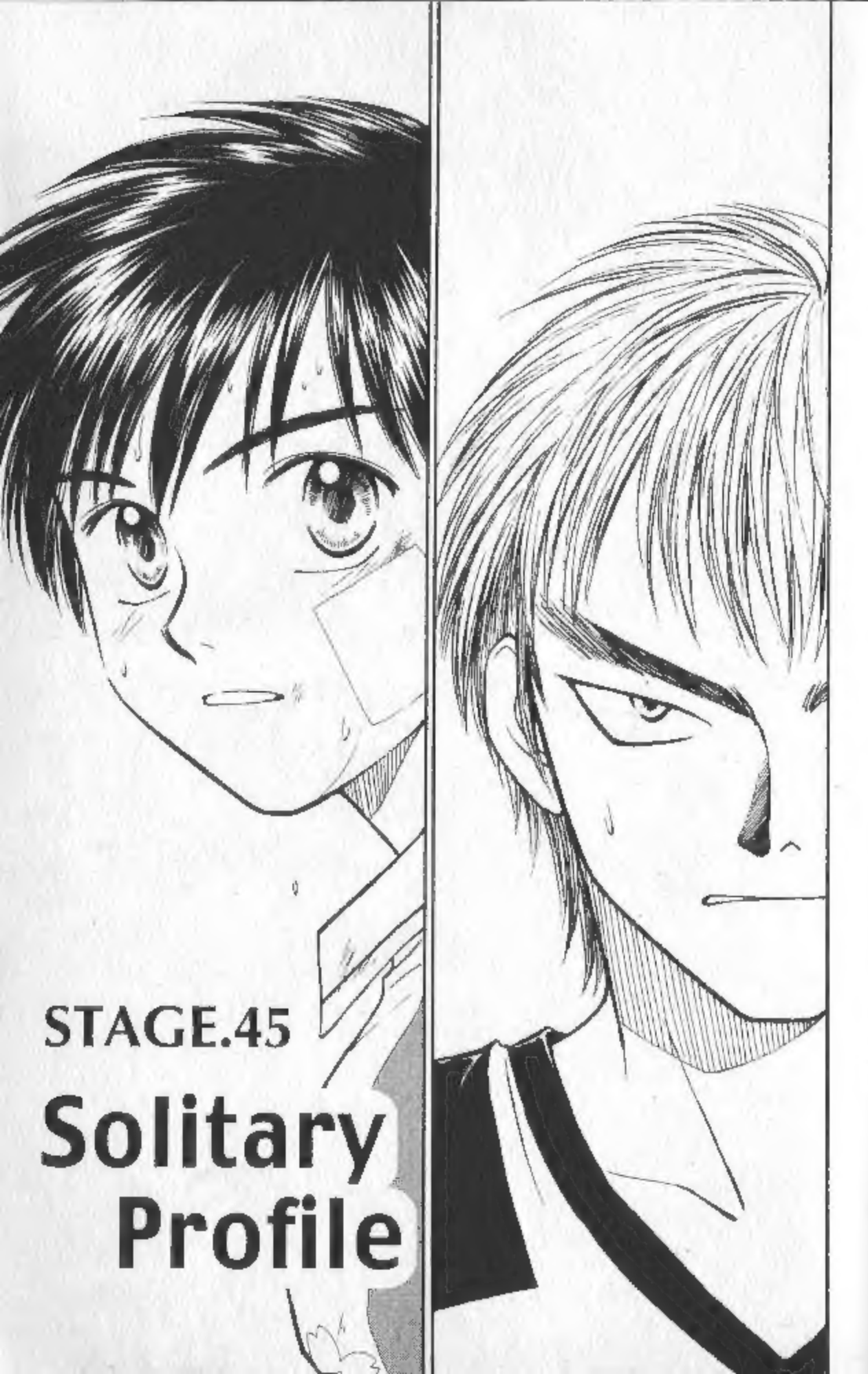
STAGE.45

Solitary Profile



BUT I'M FINALLY GETTING MY HEAD AROUND IT.
Y'KNOW, AT FIRST I COULDN'T GET SERIOUS ABOUT A PRACTICE MATCH...
IT'S KINDA LATE TO DECIDE THAT NOW.
I'M GOING TO PLAY HARD!
IT WAS REALLY GOOD TO BE ABLE TO ASSIST ME JUST THEN.
YOU'RE GETTING A BETTER GRASP OF WHAT SOCCER'S ALL ABOUT, SHŌ.
WELL, YOU REALLY HELPED ME.
GRABBB
JOSUI

AL-THOUGH I'M RIGHT-HANDED, I CAN CONTROL THOSE GUYS WITH MY LEFT LEG ALONE ...

THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW GOOD I AM. BUT I CAN PROVE IT BY JUST USING MY LEFT LEG.

TO BECOME A WORLD CLASS FW, I HAVE TO USE MY LEFT LEG AS WELL AS MY RIGHT.

BUT IF I PLAY AT THEIR LEVEL, I'LL NEVER MAKE IT.

TAP

GRIN

!

...NOT FUN FOR HIM.

I WONDER IF IT'S...

...HE PLAYS SOCCER LIKE HE'S IN PAIN.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

HMPH

...RYOICHI, SOCCER ISN'T SOME-THING ONE PLAYS ALONE.

YOU'RE AN INCREDIBLE PLAYER. YOU HAVE THE NATURAL TALENT TO BECOME A TOP PLAYER...

CAN YOU DO THAT?

BUT THE OPPONENTS KNOW IT NOW. IT WON'T BE EASY TO SCORE THAT WAY BY YOURSELF.

YOU HAVE TO PASS, RYOICHI, OR WE'LL LOSE.

BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE TRUE PLEASURE OF SOCCER.

...I TOOK A TEST TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WOULD RECOMMEND ME FOR THE SCHOOL.

AS MY FATHER PREDICTED, A SCOUT FROM MUSASHINOMORI SAW ME, AND...

...THE COACHES TO RECOGNIZE ME?

BUT DURING THE SHORT GAME, HOW CAN I GET...

IN AN ORDINARY SITUATION, I WOULD HAVE PASSED THE BALL.

PASS!

...YOU WON'T EVEN WIN AGAINST JOSUI.

UNTIL YOU REALIZE IT...

TAA-WHEEET

I WON'T LOSE...

I WANT YOU TO DIVIDE INTO RED TEAMS AND WHITE FOR A MINI-GAME.

NOT AGAINST THEM...

MUSASHINOMORI PRIVATE SCHOOL

JOSUI

ROHRRR

TA-KE-DA...

I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO DOUBT I'D BE SELECTED ...

IBA-RA-KI...

FU-JISHI-RO...

THERE ISN'T ANYONE ELSE SPECIAL IN THE OPPOSING TEAM OR IN MINE.

NA-KA-MA-BE...

YOU WERE PRETTY GOOD, BUT...

...THE COACH SAID YOU'RE NOT NEEDED FOR THE TEAM HE WANTS TO BUILD.

WHY WASN'T I...?

YOU, HUH ...?

...HAVE PASSED AS REGULAR PLAYERS. PLEASE PROCEED TO THE RECEPTION TO RECEIVE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO ENTER THE SCHOOL.

BA

I HAVE TO BE BETTER THAN THE REST.

BUT, MY GOAL IS THE WORLD ARENA.

IN A GAME LIKE THIS IF I CAN'T MAKE THE FINISHING SHOT, I WON'T MAKE IT TO THE WORLD.

I HAVE TO.

I HAVE TO MAKE THIS ON MY OWN.

WAIT!

HEY! WHAT DID HE SAY?

AH, THERE! HIM!

YOU'RE KIDDING. WHO?

I MEAN, THAT GUY TURNED DOWN BEING A REGULAR PLAYER.

ROARRRR

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE TEST THIS YEAR?

HE REFUSED THE OFFER?

TATSUYA MIZUNO.

HUH

I THINK HIS NAME IS TATSUYA MIZUNO ...

...ME.

YOU'RE JOKING ?!

HUH ?

...SO, I MADE SURE YOU CAN GET IN AS A SUBSTITUTE PLAYER.

STILL, WE CAN'T DISMISS YOUR TALENT ...

HUH?

ME? A SUB-STITUTE PLAYER !?

NO WAY I'D BE PART OF THAT.

HEH. SO, JOSUI'S NO. 9 IS FROM MUSASHI-NOMORI.

I SEE. IF HE WAS AT MUSASHI-NOMORI, HE WOULD KNOW.

HE KEPT BREAKING THEIR SET-PLAY OPPORTUNITIES SO I ASKED HIM HOW HE KNEW...

YEAH. LAST TIME WE HAD A PRACTICE GAME I ASKED HIM ABOUT THE MUSASHI-NOMORI MATCH.

AH.

SHŌ ...

TAP TAP

THAT SMALL GUY...

...AND THAT'S TATSUYA ...!!

SHŌ ...

RYO-ICHI!?

WHAT'S HIS NAME?

JOSUI'S NO.9?

NO IDEA.

APPARENTLY, HE DECIDED ON HIS OWN ACCORD.

WHY DID HE GO TO JOSUI?

DEFENSE!

COVER EACH OTHER!

AND STOP HIM!

NORO!

KAORU !!

DON'T GIVE UP.

HE'S BEEN ANNOYING SINCE I FIRST MET HIM.

VIOLATED MY PRIVACY.

SHŌ.

...BY YOU!

...BE DEFEATED ...

9

JOSUI

THE NO. 9 OF KOKUBU SECOND IS GOING TO SHOOT BETWEEN THE LEGS OF THE DF BLOCKING HIS LEFT LEG.

BUT I'LL SHOW THEM WHAT REAL PLAYING'S ABOUT.

THESE GUYS ARE HAPPY WITH SIMPLE ORGANIZED PLAY AT A JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL...

LET ME IN, COACH AMAMIYA.

...BUT HE THREW THAT AWAY.

AND SHŌ WAS AT MUSASHI-NOMORI...

...HE WAS ACCEPTED.

TATSUYA TURNED DOWN MUSASHI-NOMORI EVEN THOUGH...

...DIFFERENT. THEY'RE HAPPY TO PLAY SIMPLE SOCCER.

BUT I'M...

I WON'T...

PASS IT, RYO-ICHI!

PASS THE BALL!

PASS...

...THE BALL!

KRAKKK

...THE TIMING!!

I FIGURED OUT HIS STRATEGY.

THE LAST TIME AROUND...

COMPUTING THE SPEED OF THE BALL AND MY SPEED...

IF HE'S GOING TO SHOOT THROUGH THE LEGS, THIS IS THE ONLY COURSE.

...WHAT'S LEFT IS...

WHAM

DA-
ICHI!

KA-RA-MMM

LET'S GO, SHŌ!

UNHUHHH

WUMP

FWIS

IT WON'T WORK AGAINST ME THE THIRD TIME!

LET'S GO! SHŌ!!

STAGE.46 Road to the Future

RYOICHI...

YAYYY!

JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH WINS.

THE GAME'S OVER. THREE TO TWO.

9

STAGE.46 Road to the Future

TAA-WHEEE

WE DID IT!

YAY!

I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER ALWAYS WORK HARD

THIS WAS A SHORT BUT EFFECTIVE RETREAT.

BUT I'M GLAD YOU WON.

LOCKER ROOM

GEEZ, YOU'RE TOO EXCITED IF THE GUYS FROM KOKUBU SECOND HEARD YOU, THEY'D FEEL HORRIBLE

HA HA HA HA HA

YOU'RE RIGHT. HE'S NOT HERE

HEY? ANYONE SEE SHŌ? IS HE LOST?

SCRUB SCRUB

MAN, THAT WAS A GREAT SHOWER.

WHAT'S UP, GUYS? YOU ALL SOUND WEIRD.

DID IT!

I'M-- I'M CRYING.

-HIKKUP-

SOB SOB

YOU DIOT! I'M NOT LAUGHING. -HIC-

SNIFF SNIFF

WOW. RITZY! THEY'VE GOT SHOWER STOOLS!

LOCKER ROOM

WHINE

THIS IS OUR FIRST VICTORY.

I DIDN'T EXPECT -HIKKUP- TO BE ABLE TO PLAY. WASN'T SOMETHING I EXPECTED AND I DID WELL -HIKKUP- AND TO TOP IT OFF, WE WON -HIKKUP- I'M SO GLAD. SO. GLAD

MASATO, WHAT'S THAT WEIRD LAUGH?

SNIFF SNIFF

SHAA SHAA

FWISSHH

FWHOOSHHH

...SOME-WHERE HE CAN BE ALONE.

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MASTER RYOICHI, HE'S PROBABLY

WHEN-EVER HE'S TROUBLED, HE DOES THAT.

ALSO, HE TRIES HARDER THAN THE OTHERS.

HE IS, IN FACT A GENTLE SOUL.

PLEASE DO NOT THINK ILL OF MY YOUNG MASTER.

WHAT? NO WAY!

OBAA-SAN, ER-- YOU'RE RYO-ICHI'S..

I'M-- I'M FOUR-TEEN.

OH SO YOU'RE THE SAME AGE AS MY YOUNG MASTER.

SO HOW OLD ARE YOU?

I USED TO BE HIS NANNY

I WILL TREASURE IT.

SHH. LET'S KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM YOUR FATHER.

WHOA! THANK YOU, KAZUE.

TAP TAP

WHERE DID HE GO?

I LOST HIM.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE?

I'M LOOKING FOR HIM...

MASTER RYOICHI.

OBAA-SAN. GRAND-MA.

ER-- WELL

READ THIS WAY

TO MY YOUNG MASTER.

PLEASE BE KIND.

KA-ZUE

KA-ZUE..

YOUNG MASTER?

WHAT IS IT

TEACHER COMPLIMENTED ME, SAYING I HAVE A TALENT

I, A THIRD GRADER, DEFEATED THE TEAM OF FOURTH GRADERS!

WOW

BEFORE I KNEW IT,

HE TURNED INTO SOMEONE WHO RARELY LAUGHED

SUCH BELIEFS LED TO MANY THREATS AND DEMANDS

YOUNG MASTER, GIVE ME MONEY

IF YOU DON'T

PEOPLE BELIEVE HE'S BEEN RAISED INDULGENTLY. BUT IT'S THE OPPOSITE.

AS HEIR OF THE TENJO GROUP, MASTER RYOICHI WAS ALWAYS FORCED TO SHOW RESULTS.

SOCCER, WHICH USED TO BE HIS ONLY COMFORT, BECAME HIS PROSECUTOR

AND EVER SINCE, HE FAILED TO BE SELECTED AS A REGULAR AT MUSASHINOMORI.

MORE OF HIMSELF THAN NECESSARY. HE'S PLACED HIGHER HURDLES AND CONTINUED TO PUSH HIMSELF HARDER.

BUT SINCE THEN HE HAS DEMANDED

I DO NOT KNOW IT WAS HIS GOAL TO DEBUT IN THE WORLD ARENA, AND HE PLAYED IN A WAY THOUGHT TO BE SELFISH.

HOW COME HE FAILED?

HE TRIED FOR MUSASHI-NOMORI!?

IT WAS SO PAINFUL TO SEE.

MY YOUNG MASTER IS RIGHT-HANDED.

THE REASON WHY HE WAS PARTICULAR ABOUT HIS LEFT LEG DURING THE MATCH?

COULD IT BE

WHEN I FAILED TO BECOME A REGULAR AT MUSASHINOMORI...

WAIT

AM I LOSING BELIEF IN MYSELF?

JUST BECAUSE I LOST A PRACTICE MATCH?

AT TIMES LIKE THIS, WHY DO I REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO?

..I FELT ANGER, BUT,

IT DIDN'T MAKE ME LOSE FAITH

...OUT OF THE GAME DURING THE SPRING CHAMPION-SHIP

..AND WHEN I WAS ORDERED...

...ENERGY WHICH I USED TO IMPROVE.

I TURNED EVERY RAGE I FELT INTO....

SO WHY...?

DESPITE...

SLAP

HEH HEH

THAT'S WONDER-FUL.

YES.

I DO?

I'M HAPPY BECAUSE YOU LOOK HAPPY.

KAZUE, YOU LOOK HAPPY.

WRENCH

...AT WHAT YOU LOVE MOST.

I AM THE HAPPIEST WHEN I SEE YOU DOING YOUR BEST..

I'M GOING TO BECOME A SOCCER PLAYER!

THEN, I'LL TRY EVEN HARDER !!

GRRPP

UN-HH-HHH!

AN-HHH!

ONH-HHH!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HUNCHH

TH--THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY-ONE SO INCREDIBLE.

I--I WANTED TO SEE ...AND TALK ...TO YOU.

...

TO ESTABLISH A DEFINITIVE CHANCE SINGLE-HANDEDLY YOU'RE AN FW. BUT YOU'RE TOTALLY DIFFERE--

YOUR POWER TO BREAK THROUGH

WHAT ...?

ER--

WHAT'S SO INCREDIBLE ABOUT ME?

ONE CRIES WHEN THEY FEEL HUMILIATED.

A TEAR!?

SKRATCHH

OOPS ...

S--SORRY! ...I DIDN'T MEAN TO...ER...I HAPPENED BY... I--I--I WAS LOOKING FOR ...

TRRIIPPP

HOW ELSE COULD I TELL YOU!?

I'M SORRY YOU THINK THAT BUT I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE INCREDIBLE.

IT WOULD HAVE. I MEAN, TILL NOW I ONLY VAGUELY WANTED TO BE ONE.

MAY-BE

BUT THEN I MET YOU...

NO WAY.

IT'LL TAKE A MILLION YEARS.

I, ALSO ..

WANT TO BECOME A PROFES-SIONAL PLAYER.

9

RA! WWW

YOU MOCK ME WHEN I LOST AGAINST YOU LOSERS?

DON'T JOKE WITH ME!

'CAUSE THAT WOULD BE AN EVEN BIGGER INSULT.

THEN ..

...WHY ARE YOU HERE? TO "COMFORT" ME?

NO. NO. THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT

I BET YOU CAME TO LAUGH AT ME!

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT I MONO-POLIZE THE BALL!

YEAH. RIGHT.

I HAVE AN ABILITY TO ESTABLISH A DEFINITIVE CHANCE SINGLE-HANDEDLY?

READ THIS WAY

AND IF I CAN'T BE A PROFES-SIONAL UNLESS I'M BETTER THAN YOU, THEN I'LL BECOME BETTER.

NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS IT TAKES.

IF I NEED TO HAVE YOUR SKILLS TO BE A PROFES-SIONAL, THEN I'LL GET THEM.

AND SINCE BEING LIKE YOU IS MY GOAL...

I CAN MAKE IT IF I DON'T GIVE UP.

GET LOST.

SHŌ KAZAMATSURI, HUH?

THERE YOU ARE.

TAP TAP TAP

BOW

I LOVE SOCCER ...

AND I CAN'T LET YOU BEAT ME.

I GUESS THERE'S OTHER GREAT PLAYERS I HAVEN'T MET YET.

I WANT TO PLAY AGAINST MANY SCHOOLS.

FIRST TIME I MET YOU, TATSUYA, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A REALLY GOOD PLAYER, BUT

..RYOICHI SORT OF IS, TOO, IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WAY...

.. THAT MEANS WE'D BETTER CONTINUE TO WIN!

AND ...

...WILL ONLY MAKE YOU STRONGER.

THEREFORE. .

EVERY WALL YOU SMACK INTO...

EVERY DIFFICULTY THAT HURTS YOU..

YOU ARE ALL STILL YOUNG.

...OF YOUR OWN FUTURES.

IT'S UP TO YOU TO TAKE CONTROL ...

GOING AFTER THEIR MANAGER, HUH?

NAH, THAT'S YOU.

POONK

HMM ...

HAD THINGS TO DO.

THANKS.

HERE'S YOUR STUFF

WHERE WERE YOU? TRYING TO GET LEFT BEHIND?

LET'S GO.

DON'T KNOW IF WE WOULDA WON IF HE WAS PLAYING FROM THE START.

YEAH. TO BE HONEST, HE GOT ME TOTALLY SCARED.

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE THE SAME AGE AS US.

ME, TOO.

THAT FW WHO JOINED HALFWAY THROUGH MADE THE GAME PRETTY CLOSE.

STAGE.47 To that Sky (BE THERE)

I'M SORRY

BUT I'M BUSHED. I'M GOING HOME.

THE PRACTICE MATCH WASN'T ENOUGH, WAS IT?

LET'S KICK SOME BALLS AT THE RIVER-BED.

...

UNUSUAL

TIRED!? YOU?

SEE YOU TOMORROW?

RYOICHI TENJO...

...BECAUSE YOU WERE ABLE TO UNDER-STAND THE HOMEWORK YOU WERE GIVEN.

I THINK THE REASON YOU WON THE PRACTICE GAME IS...

AS OF TODAY, THE RETREAT IS OVER.

JOSUI JUNIOR

I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER HOW YOU PLAYED TODAY. DO THE BEST YOU CAN.

IN TWO WEEKS THE DISTRICT PRIMARY BEGINS.

SHŌ.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

YOU'VE EARNED YOUR REST

NOW, GO.

WHEN YOU GET HOME, SLEEP WELL.

WILL I EVER BE GOOD ENOUGH?

BUT, TYPE A ALWAYS REGRETS AFTER HE SPEAKS.

TYPE A IS SCARY WHEN HE TAKES A DEFIANT ATTITUDE.

AM I FEAR-LESS OR WHAT?

THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS PICK NG A FIGHT

BESIDES

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE EVER TALKED LIKE THAT TO ME

IT MAKES ME WORRIED

I THOUGHT HE WAS INCREDIBLE.

BUT I WAS SCARED HE SHOCKED ME.

YOU MAKE ME WANT TO VOMIT

I'LL DESTROY YOU, JOGUI.

THAT POWER.

I WONDER IF EVERYONE WHO BECOMES A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER HAS THAT NTENSE POWER AND PERSONALITY?

HE HAS THE ABILITY TO REAL ZE HIS DREAM.

YO.

WELCOME HOME.

AND . . .LONG TIME NO SEE.

I'M HOME

AH, YEAH.

BY THE WAY HOW WAS THE RETREAT? DIDN'T YOU HAVE A PRACTICE MATCH TODAY?

I'M GOING ON A DATE.

YOU'RE GOING TO WORK SO LATE?

BUT THIS IS SUNDAY!

BECAUSE I LOVE SOCCER, I CAN'T LET YOU BEAT ME.

IF I NEED TO HAVE YOUR SKILLS TO BE A PROFESSIONAL THEN I'LL GET THEM.

NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.

AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO WORK TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL

.WHERE DO I FIT IN?

SLIIDD

SLAM

HELLO. IT'S ME IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

IT'S ABOUT SHŌ. YES . I WANTED TO CALL YOU..

WHAT?

AS YOUR BROTHER, I HAVE THE GREATEST FAVOR OF MY LIFE TO ASK YOU

SHŌ.

TAP TAP

A PRO, HUH...

LET'S GO AND EAT SOMETHING YUMMY!

SLIID

HUH?

HUH!?

HE BROKE THROUGH EVEN WHEN THREE DFS TRIED TO BLOCK HIM. HE CAN SEND THESE EXPLOSIVE BULLET SHOTS, AND YET, HE'S ACCURATE

HE'S GOT THIS GREAT BODY AND TECHNIQUE.

HE DOES SOUND PRETTY INCREDIBLE

YOU THINK? I'M STILL SHOCKED WE WON.

THERE'S THIS INCREDIBLE GUY IN THE OPPOSING TEAM. ALTHOUGH HE'S MY AGE

...HUMM.

THREE TO TWO.

WE WON.

I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER IT'S GOING TO BE BEFORE I MASTER THOSE TECHNIQUES?

THE THING IS, I'M SURE WE'RE GOING TO FACE A LOT OF OTHERS LIKE HIM WHEN WE PARTICIPATE IN THE TOKYO-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP OR IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

HMMM

SHŌ...

SORRY BRO KŌ. YOU WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE DON'T BE LATE.

SHŌ?

BEEP BEEP

YEAH.

SEE YOU LATER.

TEACHER! YAMA-MOTO...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. COME IN!

YOU TALKED ME INTO IT.

HAD HIM AS OUR TEACHER WHEN WE WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

IT'S OKAY YOU HAVE SOME I BROUGHT MY SPECIAL RESERVE.

CAN'T I'M DRIVING.

LET'S HAVE A DRINK, KŌ

I APOLOGIZE FOR BARGING IN ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE

HOW SAD I HAD HOPED TO SHARE A DRINK AFTER SO LONG

BOTH MY BRO KŌ AND I.

PLEASE ENJOY TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT

YES.

NO PROBLEM AT ALL NO PROBLEM. SINCE YOUR PARENTS MOVED TO KYUSHU, YOU PROBABLY DON'T GET TO EAT ANYTHING THAT REQUIRES PREPARATION.

WHEN I EXPRESSED MY DESIRE TO ENTER MUSASHINOMORI.

MR. YAMAMOTO WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SERIOUSLY LISTENED TO ME

HE'S STRICT AND EXTREMELY SCARY WHEN HE'S ANGRY

HMMM, DELICIOUS!

BUT HE WOULD ALWAYS LISTEN TO HIS STUDENTS' CONCERNS.

AND YET

SIR...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE GRADUATION. SHŌ, HAVE YOU GOTTEN TALLER?

HOW'S THE SCHOOL?

HE WAS MY FAVORITE TEACHER.

AH, THANKS FOR REMINDING ME

WHAT ABOUT YOUR DATE?

YEAH. WE HAVEN'T TALKED MUCH LATELY, AND I WANTED TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOU

THAT'S THE GREATEST FAVOR OF YOUR LIFE?

GRUMBLE

WHAT?

OK

AH...MADAM? IT'S ME... YES...WELL, I'M NOT... FEELING WELL...PROBABLY SICK....I'M SO SORRY... BUT I CAN'T...THANK YOU. ANOTHER TIME.

KAFF ŚNIFF, KAF KAF

ONLY A LITTLE LIE

BUT STILL

YOU LIED ABOUT BEING SICK

HEH

IT'S DECIDED THEN.

OH, YOU MADE IT!

YAMAMOTO

THIS PLACE?

VROOOOO

DO NOT LET YOUR GOAL BECOME YOUR OBJECTIVE.

?

YES.

ISN'T IT YOUR DREAM TO BECOME A SOCCER PLAYER?

FOOSH

WHEN YOU BEGIN TO LOSE SIGHT, SHŌ...

...TRACE BACK THE PATH YOU TOOK, AND REMEMBER HOW YOU FIRST FELT.

RUSSTLE

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT

WHY DID YOU ASPIRE TO BECOME A PRO, AND WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU BECOME ONE?

IT'S NOT ABOUT *HOW YOU CAN BECOME ONE,* BUT...

...*WHY YOU WANT TO BECOME ONE.*

I ENDED UP LEAVING MUSASHI-NOMORI.

I'M SO SORRY.

WHAT ...? NO!

DO YOU REGRET THAT?

I DON'T REGRET IT AT ALL!

AT THE SCHOOL I GO TO NOW I PLAY SOCCER ALL THE TIME, AND I'VE MET GOOD TEAM-MATES.

ALL'S WELL THEN

SIP

I KNEW YOU QUIT MUSASHI-NOMORI KŌ TOLD ME WHEN HE SOUGHT MY ADVICE.

I TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS YOUR LIFE, AND IF YOU DECIDED TO DO SO, HE SHOULD LET YOU DO IT.

YOU WERE A GOOD STUDENT WHO GAVE ME NO TROUBLES, BUT

...YOU WERE ALSO A STUBBORN SOUL WHO WOULDN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND ONCE IT WAS MADE UP

SIGH

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. PLEASE GIVE MR. YAMAMOTO OUR BEST

COME VISIT US AGAIN.

THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL MEAL.

SNAP

GNOR KK.

THEY LEFT JUST NOW.

IS THAT SO?

SKRICH

NOW YOU'RE AWAKE?

WHERE ARE THEY?

LET HIM SLEEP WE'RE FINE.

YOU'RE SO HOPELESS.

SNORRR

THEY'RE ABOUT TO LEAVE-- SHOULDN'T YOU SEE THEM OFF?

HUSBAND

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I FELT SO GOOD ABOUT BEING A TEACHER

SUCH GENTLE SOULS

WHAT NICE KIDS. QUITE RARE THESE DAYS.

NO PROBLEM. I'M YOUR CHAUFFEUR FOR THE DAY.

DO YOU MIND HELPING ME ONCE MORE? THERE'S A PLACE I NEED TO GO.

VRRROOOOOMMM

I REMEMBERED YOU SOUNDED THAT WAY BEFORE. WHEN YOU FIRST MET MIZUNO.

YOU'RE EASY TO READ.

GEEZ

SLAM

THANKS, BRO KŌ.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET SO DEPRESSED, BUT

GUESS I WAS RIGHT TO BRING YOU

...WHO HE WANTS TO BE.

ONLY THE PERSON WHO CONTINUES TO KEEP HIS INITIAL RESOLUTION CAN BECOME...

IF YOU LIKE SOCCER ...

RELENT-LESSLY ...

... PURSUE IT EARNESTLY AND STRONGLY.

THEN YOU CAN DO IT, SHŌ KAZA-MATSURI.

IS THAT RIGHT?

YES!

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BECOME A BETTER PLAYER

THAN ANYONE ELSE.

BUT THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE IN KNOWING IT AND ACTUALLY DOING IT I WASN'T GOOD

I WATCHED THE GAME FOREVER SO I KNEW HOW TO PLAY

MR. YAMAMOTO GOT ME THIS CHANCE

YOU --

NO, I WON'T!

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PASS BY ME WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP!?

SKRIIP

I WON'T QUIT.

TOKYO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MY WONDERFUL OLD SCHOOL

I FIRST PLAYED TOSS SOCCER HERE

AH.

A BALL

THEY REPAINTED IT WHEN I WAS IN THE SIXTH GRADE

DID THE COLOR OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING CHANGE?

I HATED BEING SO SMALL

I THOUGHT THE BIGGER KIDS LOOKED SO INCREDIBLY COOL COMPARED TO ME

EVEN THEN...

I WAS THE SMALLEST.

POOSH

THERE GO NOW

MR. YAMAMOTO!

OKAY

HEY!

LET SHŌ JOIN, WILL YOU?

THAT'S WHEN.

SHŌ? DID YOU WANT TO PLAY SOCCER, TOO?

I SAW THAT EXPANSE OF SKY WHEN I PASSED TATSUYA, TOO.

THAT'S WHY I KEPT PLAYING SOCCER

I REMEMBER THAT NOW!

I LOVED THAT MOMENT.

IS THAT SO?

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT ME

AND ALL AROUND ME.

I WANTED TO FEEL IT AGAIN.

THAT'S WHY I STILL PERSIST.

ALL OF THEM SHARE THEIR STRENGTH WITH ME.

OOPS, TROUBLE. RUN! SHŌ!

HEY! WHO'S ENTERING THE SCHOOL AT NIGHT? YOU PLOTTING SOMETHING BAD?

WAIT A SEC, BRO KŌ!

AND I WANTED TO CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT WAY.

I DON'T REMEMBER HOW I...

...THE MOMENT I NEEDED TO PASS...

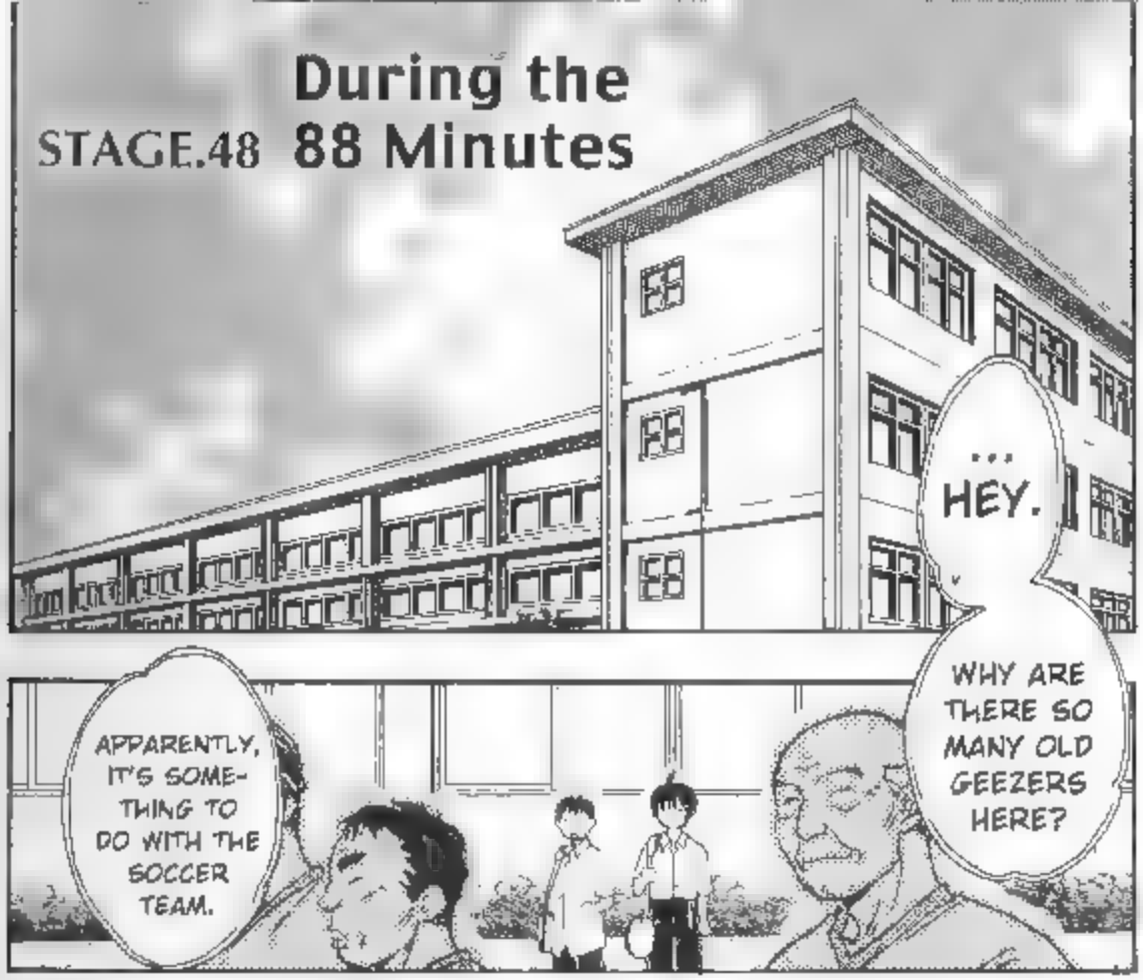
SUDDENLY, THE SKY EMBRACED ■.

THE SPACE OPENED UP IN FRONT OF ME

...PASSED BY HIM.

I WAS SO IN MY OWN HEAD...

STAGE.48 During the 88 Minutes


...
HEY.
APPARENTLY, IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SOCCER TEAM.
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY OLD GEEZERS HERE?
NOW, GETTING THE OLD-TIMERS TOGETHER. WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?
ONLY LAST WEEK THEY HAD THAT SLEEPOVER IN THE GYM.
THE TEAM'S BEEN WEIRD LATELY, DON'T YOU THINK?
--AS I EXPLAINED
THE SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP IS ABOUT TO START I WONDER IF THEY'RE SERIOUS ABOUT PRACTICING?

Question Corner

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST HAD A QUESTION CORNER. I'LL TRY TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS MAILED ME, BUT THE FACT IS THERE WERE SO MANY THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO ANSWER. ANYHOW, LET ME TRY.

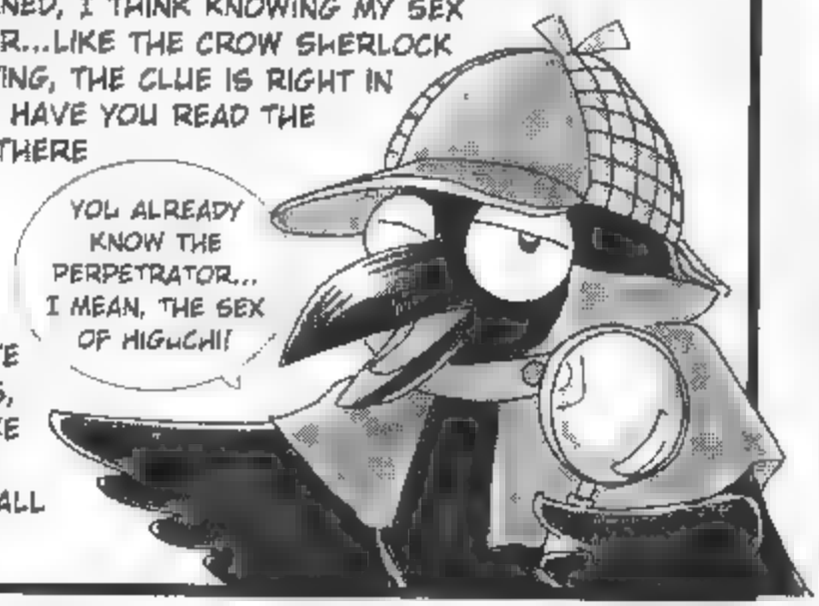
Q1: ACCORDING TO THE PROFILE, SHIGEKI APPEARS TO BE ONE YEAR OLDER THAN SHŌ AND TATSUYA. WAS THAT A MISTAKE? OR, WAS HE NOT ALLOWED TO PROCEED TO THE HIGHER GRADE? I THOUGHT THAT WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS.

A1: IT ISN'T A MISTAKE. SHIGEKI IS ONE YEAR OLDER THAN SHŌ. IN FACT, THERE WAS A FRIEND OF MY FRIEND WHO WAS IN THE SAME GRADE DESPITE BEING OLDER. TO BE HONEST, THE REASON WHY SHIGEKI IS THERE IS A SECRET. IT'S A SECRET I WILL USE WHEN SHIGEKI IS FEATURED IN THE STORY. IF I EXPLAINED IT TO YOU NOW, IT WON'T BE EXCITING LATER, DON'T YOU THINK? IF YOU LOVE SHIGEKI, LET'S WAIT UNTIL HE HIMSELF TELLS YOU HIS STORY, OKAY? ♡

Q2: HIGUCHI, ARE YOU A MAN OR A WOMAN? I CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT THINKING ABOUT IT, SO PLEASE TELL ME.

A2: IT'S A PROBLEM IF YOU CAN'T FALL ASLEEP AT NIGHT. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, I THINK KNOWING MY SEX DOESN'T MATTER...LIKE THE CROW SHERLOCK HOLMES IS SAYING, THE CLUE IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU. HAVE YOU READ THE MANGA WELL? THERE ARE CLUES HIDDEN ALL OVER THEM.

WELL, MY ANSWERS DON'T QUITE MAKE IT AS ANSWERS, I SUPPOSE, BUT SINCE THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE LEFT, THIS IS ALL I CAN DO FOR NOW.



THEY'RE ALL EXCELLENT PLAYERS WHO USED TO TAKE ACTIVE PARTS IN THE EMPEROR'S CUPS AND SUCH. YOU CAN LEARN FROM THEM.

HOW EXCITING- IT'S LIKE PLAYING WITH MY GRAND-SON

APPARENTLY, THEIR AVERAGE AGE IS 60

AKABHIA

I DON'T THINK THEY WERE BROUGHT HERE FOR FUN OR AS A JOKE

I WOULDN'T WANT THEM TO HAVE A HEART ATTACK AND DIE.

MA-SATO.

THEY MAY HAVE BEEN GREAT ONCE, BUT THEY'RE SO OLD NOW

PENNITY

THE GAME WILL BE 10 VS 10 FOR 10 MINUTES EACH HALF

WONDER WHAT THE COACH IS PLANNING.

STAGE.48
During the 88 Minutes

...HERE ARE THE MEMBERS OF AKASHIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION WHO WILL PLAY A MINI-GAME WITH YOU.

AKABHIA

WHERE WILL HE KICK?

AH.

HE'S GONE !?

BOMP

BOMP

BOMP

THE FW IS FREE!

BUT, THE GK IS UP CLOSE!

WHISSHHH

EXCELLENT PASS KAN!

AKASHIA

FUMP

TAP

TAP

TAP

AKASHIA

TAIWHEET

I'M NOT HOLDING BACK JUST 'CAUSE THEY'RE OLD

AH.

TOKUJIROU.

AKASHIA

HERE!

WHOOMP

YO!

AKASHIA

WOOHH

YAHHH!

WHIPP

BAM!

MMM

THEY MAKE ME PLAY ALL WRONG

NOT GOOD...

WELL. I'D BE DEAD IF IT HIT ME, AND I'VE ALREADY DECIDED I'M GONNA DIE ON A TATAMI MAT!

HEH HEH

KAKU. IT'S NOT OKAY FOR A GK TO RUN AWAY.

MAKES IT EASY FOR ME.

HAH

IF I STAY CLOSE, THE BALL COMES OVER.

KASHIA

WHOOMP

HEH

WHIP

HUHHH

JUST KIDDING.

WHOA! MY BACK!

HUH?

WHOOOMBLE

POMP

POMP

HUHH?

NO WAY IMPOSSIBLE.

WE DID IT! FIRST POINT.

WHO-

OOWW

YAHHH

GASP.

POIT

ARE YOU JOKING?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET OUT THERE, SANTA?

GEEZ. HOW COULD KIDS FOUL UP SO MUCH AGAINST THE OLD GEEZERS!?

MAMORU, SANTA WILL TAKE YOUR SPOT.

HEE HEE HEE

HEE HEE HEE

FINALLY IT'S LORD SANTA YAMAGUCHI'S TURN.

ONCE I'M IN ...

WHY ARE THEY DIFFERENT FROM US?

TECHNIQUE?

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE STRONGER AND FASTER, THE OLD MEN ARE CONTROLLING THE BALL.

NO. I HAVE A FEELING IT'S NOT ABOUT PLAY OR THEIR TECHNIQUE...

ARRRGH!

FWOOP

GOT-CHA!

BOOM

IS AN ACCEPT-ABLE STRATEGY

DON'T GET UPSET

HEH HEH

TAKING AN ENEMY BY SURPRISE ..

DIRTY TRICK

TAP TAP

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, PUP.

HI!

EEYYAAHHHH

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AHEAD NOW.

WHOOSH

READ THIS WAY

I CAN'T BE SERIOUS PLAYING AGAINST OLD MEN.

SNORT.

TROUBLED BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO PLAY AGAINST THE GRANDPAS?

HA HA HA

REALLY? YOU LOOKED PRETTY SERIOUS WHEN YOU WERE AT IT.

THE KEY TO BECOMING STRONGER?

THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS THE KEY TO HOW YOU BECOME STRONGER.

I BET BEFORE THIS MINI-GAME STARTED, YOU WERE SURE YOU'D WIN 10 TO 0, RIGHT?

YOU'RE IN BETTER SHAPE, SO HOW WERE THEY ABLE TO TAKE FIVE POINTS?

IT'S HALF-TIME. LET'S HAVE A SHORT BREAK.

5 - 5

FIVE TO FIVE.

RATS!

A TIE AGAINST THE OLD MEN.

WE USED TO BE JUST LIKE THEM.

AHH, IT MUST BE GREAT TO BE YOUNG ALL THAT VIGOR

YASHI

BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH STAMINA, WE'VE GOT TO USE OUR MINDS.

IT MUST BE GREAT TO BE ABLE TO USE ALL YOUR STRENGTH

HOW COME WE LET THEM SCORE FIVE POINTS?

YASHI

IF YOU ONLY WANT TO BE TOLD EVERYTHING, YOUR BRAIN WON'T GROW

WHY CAN'T THE COACH JUST TELL US?

GEEZ.

PENALTY

EXCUSE ME!

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE STILL UTILIZING THEIR BODIES ONLY

I BET THE CHILDREN ARE THINKING IT WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS.

WHOOOSH!

HUHHH

...HOW COULD THEY EASILY SCORE FIVE POINTS? OUR DEFENDERS WERE DOING THEIR BEST

I UNDERSTAND HOW WE COULD EASILY SCORE FIVE POINTS SINCE WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF STAMINA, BUT ..

BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH STAMINA, WE'VE GOT TO USE OUR BRAINS

THAT'S GOT TO BE PART OF IT...

BUT I DON'T THINK THE ISSUE IS ONLY ABOUT TECHNIQUE.

THEY DON'T MOVE MUCH. INSTEAD THEY PASS ACCURATELY AND QUICKLY, RELAYING THE BALL.

AND SINCE THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY ONE OF THEM HAS THE BALL IS SO SHORT -- IT'S HARD FOR THE DFs TO MARK THEM.

THEY'RE REALLY GOOD AT LETTING GO OF THEIR BALL

DIEGO MARADONA

THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYER, WHO, IN THE 1986 MEXICO CHAMPIONSHIP, PERFORMED THAT LEGENDARY "PASSING FIVE." DESPITE HIS 5'4" STATURE, HE CHARMED HIS FANS BY PASSING GIGANTIC DFs ONE AFTER ANOTHER. HIS ABILITY TO BREAK THROUGH AT THE CRITICAL MOMENT, HIS ELEGANT STYLE OF DRIBBLING, HIS PASS THAT TAKES OTHERS BY SURPRISE --ALL OF THESE ARE DONE WITH A WILD FLARE. HE'S BEEN CALLED THE VERY LAST SUPERSTAR OF THE CENTURY. AS A REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER OF THE ARGENTINEANS, HE WON THE WORLD CUP ONCE AND WAS THE RUNNER-UP ONCE

YOU ALL KNOW OF MARADONA, RIGHT?

YES.

LET ME GIVE YOU A HINT.

HOW MANY TOTAL MINUTES DURING THE 90-MINUTE GAME DOES MARADONA, AS THE GOAL GETTER, HAVE THE BALL?

THERE'S NO COMPARISON BETWEEN THE GRANDPAS AND MARADONA IN TERMS OF THE AMOUNT OF VIGOR OR THE TECHNIQUE, BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE IS ONE THING THAT'S COMMON.

THAT'S RIGHT. WITH THOSE TWO MINUTES ALONE, HE BECAME THE WORLD SUPERSTAR.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO SCORE? THE ANSWER IS RIGHT IN THERE.

THE GRANDPAS, WHO DON'T HAVE YOUR STAMINA, TOOK FIVE POINTS FROM YOU.

ONLY TWO MINUTES DURING THE 90-MINUTE GAME!?

SINCE HE'S SO INVOLVED WITH SCORING, HOW ABOUT 80 MINUTES?

WELL, LET ME THINK

WHAT?

HUH? NO WAY.

THE ANSWER IS ABOUT TWO MINUTES

SUCCESSFUL PLAYERS ARE CHECKED BY THE OPPONENTS. THAT SHORTENS THE TIME THEY HAVE THE BALL.

YEP. THEY'VE GOT THIS KNACK FOR DOING IT

THAT'S WHY

...WILL YOU *LISTEN* TO WHAT I'M SAYING?

HE *DROPPED* THEM, AND I WAS TOTALLY TAKEN BY SURPRISE, AND, ER...

I MEAN, HIS DENTURES. HIS DENTURES!

I GUESS IT'S NOT THE HAND BUT THE TEETH.

DIRTY TRICKS?

THE REASON THOSE GEEZERS SCORED FIVE POINTS IS THAT THEY USED DIRTY TRICKS

DON'T YOU GET IT?

PENALTY

WHILE BEING DISTRACTED .. PASSED BY..

AH!

THAT GEEZER! WHILE I WAS DISTRACTED BY HIS DENTURES, HE ESCAPED... I MEAN, HE PASSED ME!!

HMMM.

TAA-I-WEETO

LET'S START THE SECOND HALF!

HIDEOMI AND TATSUYA, ONCE MORE.

I GOT IT.

KNOCK IT OFF.

THANKS, SANTA!

I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF EXPLAINING

?

NO PROB. LONG AS YOU GOT IT.

IN THE FIRST HALF, THE FW GRANDPA SHOT AFTER HE FREED HIMSELF FROM HIDEOMI.

HIDEOMI! TATSUYA.

LEND ME A HAND.

YOU KNOW INSTEAD OF JUST THINKING ABOUT IT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO PRACTICE

UN-MARKED HIMSELF

WHOOOSH

AND HE ..

HIDEOMI WAS ALREADY MARKING THE GRAND-PA.

YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

TTOOM

NOT AT ALL. I THINK HE FREED HIMSELF PRETTY EASILY

REALLY?

HE DIDN'T MOVE THAT MUCH.

SKRIIIKK

NO MATTER HOW...

...SEVERE THE MARK IS..

..FROM ME.

...A MOMENT WHEN HE LOOKS AWAY..

.THERE HAS TO BE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN I DON'T HAVE THE BALL?

IF HE COULD PLAY SUCCESSFULLY WHILE HE HAD THE BALL ONLY TWO MINUTES...

...IT MEANS IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW HE SPENT THE OTHER 88 MINUTES TO GET READY FOR THAT TWO MINUTES.

...MAKE HIS MOVE?

SO WHEN DID THE GRANDPA WHO DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HE WAS GOING TO BREAK FROM THE MARK

THE BEST WAY TO SCORE S TO CONTROL THE BALL WHEN I'M BOTH FREE AND FACING FORWARD

SKUK

SKUK

BUT IN REALITY, WHEN I'M MARKED THIS HARD, I CAN'T EASILY FACE FORWARD

THAT MEANS. I MUST BREAK AWAY FROM THE DF

THE BATTLE STARTS NOT AFTER BUT BEFORE I GET THE BALL!!

WHOOMP

ONLY THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO THINK ABOUT HOW TO VANISH FROM THE SIGHT OF THE DEFENDERS CAN..

YOU'RE RIGHT, SHŌ.

HAH!

...SEIZE THE GLORY OF THOSE TWO MINUTES!!

THAT KID.

HE'S STILL ROUGH, BUT HE USES HIS HEAD.

THAT'S WHEN HIS EYES FOLLOW WHERE THE BALL'S HEADED.

AKASHIA

AT THAT MOMENT ...

...I VANISH FROM THE DF'S SIGHT.

AKASHIA

STAGE.49 Quickening!

MUSASHINOMORI PRIVATE SCHOOL MIDDAY PRACTICE

ASSEMBLE.

SOON, THE BRANCH PRIMARY FOR THE SUMMER CHAMPION-SHIP WILL BEGIN.

IN 1998 THE TAMA DISTRICT, INCLUDING JOSUI, DIVIDED INTO 6 BLOCKS. EXCEPT FOR THE TOP 4 OF THE PREVIOUS CHAMPIONSHIP, THE WINNER AND THE 2ND THROUGH 5TH OF EACH DISTRICT (CONSIDERED THE TOP TIER SCHOOLS OF THE TAMA REPRESENTATIVE DETERMINATION GAME) MAY PLAY IN THE TOKYO CHAMPIONSHIP

ONLY BECAUSE WE WERE TOO CONFIDENT AND LOWERED OUR GUARD.

SINCE WE WON THE SPRING CHAMPION-SHIP, WE ARE EXCUSED FROM THE PRIMARY, BUT ..

THAT'S EXPECTED FOR A TEAM OF OUR CALIBER.

LAST YEAR WE FAILED TO BE EXCUSED, AND THAT'S...

I BUILT THIS TEAM TO WIN.

DO NOT DIS-APPOINT ME.

THIS YEAR, WE MUST AIM TO BE NUMBER ONE.

OUR GOAL IS THE NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIP!

CHATTER

CAPTAIN KATSURŌ.

CHATTER

THEY'RE NOT THE KIND OF TEAM THAT WILL BE STOPPED AT THE DISTRICT PRIMARY.

BESDES

OF COURSE THEY WILL. SEIJI.

I WONDER IF THEY'LL WIN THEIR WAY UP.

YOU MEAN JOSUI?

SINCE I'M A 8TH GRADER, THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE TO PLAY SOCCER AS A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT

I WANT TO PLAY AGA NST THEM ONE MORE TIME.

STAGE.49 Quickening!

NOT QUITE, MAYBE?

WHOOSH

HMMM. SO THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE.

YEAH.

...THE JOSUI'S GK?

YOU'RE ...

PONK

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU'RE NOT FROM OUR SCHOOL

YUP! THAT MAKES IT FUN. ♡

THAT MEANS THAT BLONDE MUST'VE BECOME A FW...

WORLD SOCCER INCREDIBLE PLAYERS GK GR

YOU CAN BECOME GILMAR TOO!

BAMMM

..THE PUNCH-ING!

SLAP

THIS IS...

WHOOSH

WATCH OUT!

HMM?

SEEMS SO.

WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE PRACTICING.

WH AM

... THE OTHER GUY IS ...

DAICHI AND...

WHOOMP

THEY'LL BE HERE SOON.

IT'S PROBABLY THEIR TURN TO CLEAN CLASSROOMS OR SOMETHING

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

SO?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT

YOU'RE SEIJI FUJI-SHIRO. YOU JUST TOLD ME

DON'T YOU KNOW ME?

I'M DAICHI FUWA

SE JI FUJI-SHIRO!

SO WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME FUN UNTIL THEY SHOW UP?

YOU KNOW I'M A STRIKER.

BASED ON THAT LAST KICK, YOU WON'T PASS ME.

YAMP

YOU'RE AN ENEMY. WHY ARE YOU HERE? TO SPY!?

YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR GK.

THE NEW GUY'S GOOD

YO. LONG TIME NO SEE!

HELLO.

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T THINK OF YOURSELF AS INFERIOR.

HUH?

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

NO WAY

COURSE I AM.

NO ONE'S GONNA SPY ON US

HOW EMBARRASSING

IDIOT.

WAP

WHAT?

A GIFT FOR THE GUYS AT THE FRONT-LINE ♡

SWISH

WHISH

... THIS.

SINCE I WAS COMING HERE TO SPY I THOUGHT I'D BRING

HE WAS SELECTED AMONG THAT JUNIOR

SEIJI OF MUSASHINOMORI YOU MEAN THAT STRIKER?

MY FAVORITE'S THE KIMCHEE-FLAVORED PORK.

IT'S A BAG OF SNACKS

WHAT DID HE BRING?

WHAT IS IT?

SEIJI!

WHY IS SEIJI OF MUSASHINOMORI HERE?

HEY, LOOK AT DAICHI.

T-THOOMP

PRETTY GOOD.

HE'S SAVING EVERY SHOT ... ... MADE BY SEIJI.

SOU-JŪ?

AH, COACH MATSU-SHITA.

WHAT'S THIS RACKET ABOUT?

SOUJŪ MATSUSHITA, THE FORMER CAPTAIN OF BOTH SHINKAWA DENKO AND JAPAN REPRESENTATIVE TEAM?

YEAH?

AH.

ARE YOU THE

IT'S REALLY MORTI-FYING!

...THEY LAUGH AT US!

YOU SURE? I BEG YOU! THE CAPTAIN AND I WERE TELLING EVERYONE TO WATCH OUT FOR JOSUI DURING THE SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP, BUT.

S -- SEIJI?

THIS IS SO EXCITING.

I'M A HUGE FAN OF YOURS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'D MEET YOU HERE.

A FAN, JUST LIKE US.

S-- SEIJI'S

I WATCHED THE DIAMOND SOCCER VIDEO!

YOU'RE SO YOUNG. HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?

MY DAD AND BROTHER ARE ALSO HUGE FANS OF YOURS I'M SO GONNA BRAG ABOUT THIS

...I WANT THE JOSUI TEAM...

... TO WIN EVERY GAME 'TIL YOU MAKE IT TO THE TOKYO CHAMPION-SHIP.

SINCE WE'RE EXCUSED FROM THE PRIMARIES ...

. HE WANTS US TO WIN...

HE'S ENCOURAGING US.

PROMISE YOU'LL MAKE IT TO THE SUMMER CHAMPION-SHIP

OTHER-WISE IT WON'T BE FUN FOR US.

UNTIL WE GET TO PLAY AGAINST MUSASHINOMORI.

WE WON'T LOSE ...

...SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A RE-MATCH.

YEP!

...WE SHOULDN'T STOP HIM WHEN HE SEEMS TO ENJOY PLAYING SO MUCH.

AS EXPECTED, SEIJI'S INCREDIBLE.

SHŌ.

WHOOM

HE DRIBBLES LIKE THE BALL STICKS TO HIM.

HIS MOVEMENTS ARE PERFECT.

AND ACCURATE.

ROAAARRRR

DO YOU, LAD?

YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH THEM.

IF SOUJI MATSUSHITA IS THE COACH, WE'D BETTER WATCH OUT

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU BECAME JOSUI'S COACH, BUT. .

YOUR COACH ALREADY SAID YES. ♡

IS THAT OKAY ?

ARE YOU SERIOUS ?

PLEASE.

COACH!

YOU BET.

THIS WILL BE FINE.

BESIDES...

AND, THAT APPLIES TO THEM, TOO.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY SECRETS.

ARE YOU SURE? YOU FORGET HE'S OUR ENEMY TEAM'S ACE PLAYER

...IS YOU.

IF SOMEONE LIKE YOU GAINS TECHN QUE, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.

IF THAT'S SO, YOU'RE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT. WITH YOUR PASSION ALONE, YOU CORNERED US.

N--NO WAY. I'M STILL UNSKILLED.

I THOUGHT CAPTAIN KATSURŌ WAS NCREDIBLE, BUT...

... WITH YOU I FEEL AWE.

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO SAY IT, BUT I BELIEVE YOU DON'T HAVE A LIMIT.

BECAUSE THERE'S NO TOP, YOU CAN DEVELOP FOREVER ...

I COULD BE RIGHT OR WRONG, BUT IT'S WHAT I BELIEVE

OH WELL!

DON'T SWEAT IT

SORRY

IS THIS A KICK-BASE?

BAM

OW!

Y'KNOW, JOSUI IS A GOOD TEAM.

YEAH, TATSUYA AND SHIGEKI ARE GOOD PLAYERS, BUT THE STRENGTH THAT MOVES THE TEAM... THE CENTER OF THE TEAM...

I'VE PLAYED AGAINST JOSUI. I KNOW.

WHAT?

YEAH.

EVERY-ONE LOVES THE GAME AND TRIES THEIR BEST. AND WE CAN ALWAYS RELY ON TATSUYA AND SHIGEKI

WHAT'RE YOU TALK'NG ABOUT?

THE TEAM EXISTS BECAUSE OF YOU.

BAKERY

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

GEEZ, WHY DO I HAVE TO ACCOMPANY THEM SO I CAN CARRY THE BAGS?

THIS STORY TAKES PLACE RIGHT BEFORE THE '98 WORLD CUP. (SORRY.)

THE WORLD CUP IS EVERY-WHERE.

Western Style Cakes

NOTHING.

BECAUSE IN THE EVENING ON THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW IS THE JAPAN VS. ARGENTINA MATCH.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ONE VICTORY ONE LOSS AND ONE TIE THEY MADE IT THROUGH THE PRIMARY

SO LONG AS THEY DON'T LOSE THEIR INTEREST RIGHT AFTER THIS.

ANY-THING THAT HELPS THEM LOVE SOCCER IS GOOD

I DON'T LIKE IT.

EVEN THOSE WHO DON'T WATCH J-LEAGUE BECOME OVERN GHT SOCCER CRITICS

OW OW OUCH!

PINCH

I CAN'T STAND THE ANTICIPATION OF AN EASY VICTORY

TO KNOW THE VALUE OF THIS THING, YOU ARE AN EXPERT TOO.

THAT ONE! THE EXTREMELY RARE CHOKER! I'M SO JEALOUS.

SOME-HOW, HE'S TOTALLY ASSIMILATED, DON'T YOU THINK?

DING DONG

IF ONLY I COULD.

EVER THINK OF TRANSFER-RING?

I LIKE JOSUI MORE THAN MY SCHOOL IT'S A LOT OF FUN.

HE'S THE KIND OF GUY YOU CAN'T GET ANGRY AT.

I MEAN, H.M...

'SIDES, UNLESS I'M YOUR ENEMY I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY AGAINST YOU.

IT'S GOOD HERE, BUT I BELONG TO MUSA-SHINO-MORI.

SEIJI.

SEE YA.

DING DONG

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE HOSPITAL. I SHOULD GET BACK.

OOPS, I'M IN TROUBLE.

HEY, DAICHI!

READ THIS WAY

IT'S THE SAME WITH ME EVEN IF WE'RE REGARDED AS WEAK. AS LONG AS WE'RE GOING TO THE DISTRICT PRIMARY, I DON'T INTEND TO LOSE

..

EVERYONE INTENDS TO WIN EVERY SINGLE GAME THEY PLAY.

NO PLAYER GOES TO THE WORLD CUP THINKING THEY'LL LOSE.

KAMINAKA SPORTS

DOING HER OWN SHOPPING, LEAVING ME TO DO THE TEAM'S SHOPPING.

MUMBLE MUMBLE

GEEZ, LOOK AT HER.

WHOOMP

WATCH OUT! WITH MY SUPER TECHNIQUE, ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL *PUNCH* YOU.

DO YOU MEAN TO WEAR BRAND NEW SHOES DURING THE GAME TOMORROW?

IDIOT! THIS KIND OF ITEM IS MORE VALUABLE UNUSED.

HEH HEH.

LOOK! I FINALLY GOT THE PREDATOR SOCCER SHOE!

THE JAMAICANS PROBABLY THINK OF OUR TEAM AS NOTHING.

IN ADDITION TO ARGENTINA, THE GRAND WINNER CANDIDATE, THERE IS CROATIA, WHO USED TO BE THOUGHT OF AS THE STRONGEST AMONG THE EUROPEAN NATIONS EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOW INDEPENDENT OF YUGOSLAVIA. JAMAICA IS BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN US, BUT THEY'RE THE ONLY TEAM WE HAVE A CHANCE TO BEAT.

I WONDER WHY THEY SAY IT'S GOOD WE'RE THE GROUP H?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT BUT.

DO YOU THINK THE JAPANESE TEAM HAS NO CHANCE TO WIN?

...PREDATORS!

NO! THE BOX FOR MY...

THUD

HUMPH ...

NOOOO!

RRIIPP

OOPS ?

NO! DON'T TOUCH.

I'M SO SORRY LET ME FIX IT RIGHT AWAY--

HM?

GEEZ.

DAB DAB

HANDKER-CHIEF

HANDKER-AH.

YOU FOOL. WITHOUT THE BOX, THEIR VALUE S CUT N HALF.

CALM DOWN, CAPTAIN! YOUR SHOES ARE SAFE

DRIIPP

PLEASE CLEAN UP YOUR BLOODY NOSE

WHIP

ER-- PLEASE USE THIS TO WIPE --

AHH!

I--I'M SO SORRY I WAS JUST UM. EXERCISING

SQUOOSH

OOPS! I'M IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

HMM ...?

A HOT GIRL!

RUSHHH

OH, NO, CAPTAIN'S BAD HABIT

PHEW

THUD

WHISH

ARE YOU SUPPORTING ENGLAND FOR THE WORLD CUP?

HEH

I AM GOROU. ARAMAKITAME. CAPTAIN OF WAK SAKA FIRST SOCCER TEAM.

YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM-- IT'S JOSUI? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

YEAH. IT'S COOL A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU LIKES SOCCER.

I GUESS I'M NOT AN ENGLAND FAN ANYMORE.

YEAH. SAME TASTE.

YOU OKAY CAPTAIN?

THIS IS A BAD DAY I'M GOING HOME. FAST

NUTS!

IT'S BAD. HIS EYES ARE ROLLED UP.

HEH HEH

WOAAA, CAPTAIN!

YOU ALL RELAXED?

THE GAME'S TOMORROW.

OOPS, MORE TROUBLE

HEH

THEY'RE THE WAKISAKA. WE'RE PLAYING AGAINST THEM FIRST, THAT PRETENTIOUS GUY'S THEIR CAPTAIN.

... HUH?

HOW DARE--?

YEAH, SO WHAT? I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE.

SO WHAT?

LOOK. WE'RE SORRY.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? MY BOX IS BROKEN.

YOU'RE NOT DISCIPLINING HIM, BUT I ASSUME WITHOUT A NINTH GRADER THAT CAN'T BE HELPED

THE ONE BEHIND YOU, HE'S YOUR INFERIOR, RIGHT?

TAME-GOROU?

WHAT AN UGLY NAME!

HAVE YOU PAID?

!

AH, THERE YOU ARE!

HOLD ON, CAPTAIN!

NO THERE'S A SPACE. ARAMAKITAME

THEY KNOW THEY CAN'T DEFEAT US, SO THEY'RE TRYING TO PSYCHE US OUT BUT THAT WON'T WORK.

THE STRATEGY OF CONFUSION, HUH?

I SEE, I SEE, I GOT IT.

IS IT OKAY FOR SUCH WEAKLINGS TO FOOL AROUND INSTEAD OF PRACTICE?

IT'S THAT BRAT!

JOSUI SOCCER TEAM!?

THAT GIRL. THEY'RE MEMBERS OF THE SOCCER TEAM?

MUSASHI-NOMORI PLAYED AGAINST US USING ALL THEIR STRENGTH.

HEY --

WITH ONLY 30%, YOU CAN'T DEFEAT JOSUI.

THE WINNER'S NOT DETERMINED BY THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL.

BAM!

Y--- YEAH ...

LET'S GO.

FORGIVE HIM.

BOW!

LET ME APOLOGIZE FOR HIM.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE WAKISAKA FIRST!

WE'RE NOT A TEAM WHOSE GOAL IS SIMPLY TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE DISTRICT PRIMARY

WELL, I CAN FORGIVE HIM BUT MAKE SURE HE'S CAREFUL TOMORROW

HEH

SHŌ, YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE

GOOD LUCK, JOSUI!

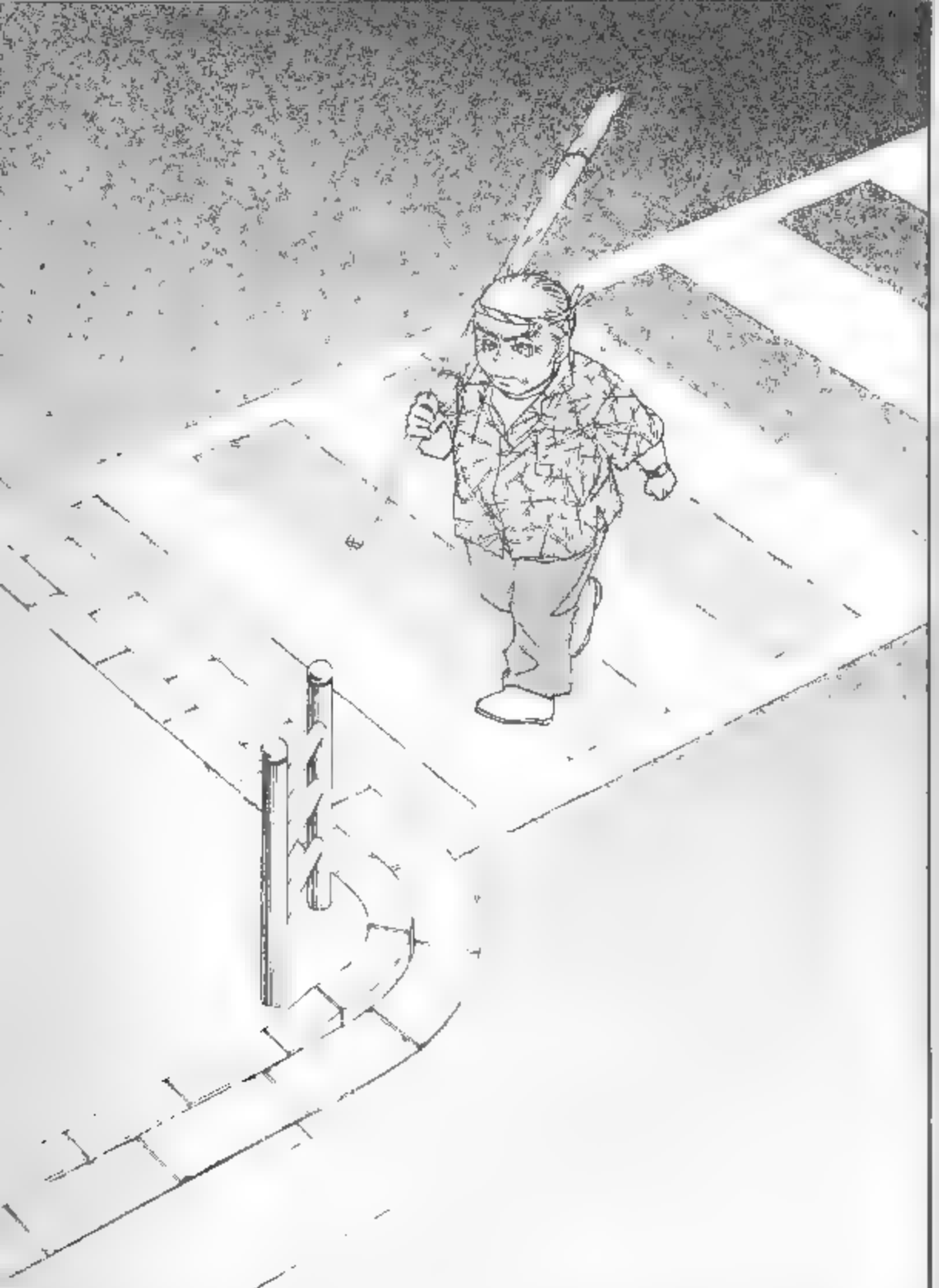
FOR THE PRIMARY, WE'RE ONLY USING 30% OF OUR STRENGTH, SO IF YOU TRY HARD ENOUGH, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO WELL.

I WISH WEAK TEAMS PLAYED ONLY OTHER WEAK TEAMS.

EVERY YEAR ONE TEAM USES ROUGH STUFF BECAUSE THEY DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE ANY ABILITY

OUR GOAL IS THE TOKYO CHAMPIONSHIP AND NOTHING ELSE. WE CAN'T GET INJURED BEFORE THE REAL GAME BEGINS.

STAGE.52 A Mighty Kick



YOU'LL SEE THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR STRENGTH.
AND YOU'LL PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MY PREDATORS
HUMPH. JOSHI, JUST WATCH HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED.
HE MAKES ME LAUGH. HA HA!
WE CAN'T BE FOOLED BY SOMEONE WITH BAND-AIDS ALL OVER HIS FACE!
DID YOU HEAR THAT? NO WAY MUSASHINOMORI USED ALL THEIR STRENGTH AGAINST THEM! WHAT A LIAR!
HAHAHAHA
I'M SHOCKED.
SHŌ, SOMETIMES YOU SPEAK SO BOLDLY
THOUGH USUALLY YOU'RE SO MILD
FINALLY, TOMORROW, OUR BATTLE BEGINS.
REALLY?
KNOCK IT OFF. THIS WAS ALL YOUR FAULT
WHY DO YOU LOAD ME UP LIKE THIS?
YUP.
SLAP
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW THEM WHAT A WEAKLING CAN DO?

HOW'S THE GAME?

SORRY I'M LATE.

!

TA DAAAAHHH

KŌ-CHAN, WILL YOU HOLD ON TO THE OTHER SIDE?

HOW DISAPPOINTING THAT I'M LATE THE DAY SHŌ IS TAKING THIS FIRST STEP.

THIS ISN'T GOOD.

OYASSAN!

HMMMMM

HEY.

OVER HERE. HURRY.

VOP! JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM

A MIGHTY KICK

WHOMP

HEY!

JOSUI

NAKUSAKA FIRST

FIRST HALF

2

0

SECOND HALF

1

0

TOTAL

TAA-WAHHHH!

WHAT'S WRONG? BE STRONG!

THOSE PLAYERS ARE UNKNOWN. WHAT DO YOU HAVE AGAINST THEM?

GO! GO!

WHOOSH

10

WE CAN'T LOSE...

...AGAINST THEM!

SKROOTCHH

FOU

NUTS!

WHOOH

GET...

...OUT OF MY WAY.

CAPTAIN!

10

THEY ALWAYS DROP OUT OF THE DISTRICT PRIMARY..

HMPH!

WE'RE REGULARS N THE TOKYO CHAMPION-SHIP, AND WE'RE UP AGA NST JOSUI?

THIS HAS GOTTA BE A JOKE.

AKISAKA

SLAM

...HE'LL AIM AT THE NEAR-POST!

AH.

ONCE I'VE GOT THE DATA, THIS KIND OF SHOT IS...

BAMM!

...NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

FOR THE SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP

THE NO. 9 OF WAKISAKA FIRST--

HE GOT THE BALL FREE. IT'S ONE-ON-ONE AGAINST THE GK!

BAM

HE'LL SCORE.

HE'S GOT A 90% CHANCE ...

HIS SHOT MAKES IT.

WHOOOM

AT THE POST, SHIGEKI SENT THE BALL TO SHŌ!

VANISHED!?

OOPS, THAT WAS CLOSE!

GRRRR!

WHOOOM

GOOD JOB--THE KEEPER SAVED SHŌ

HMM.

I CAN'T LET YOU SCORE SO MUCH --

WHOOM

WHISHHH

SNAP!

GOOD JOB! PRETENDING TO TRAP, HE LET IT THROUGH!! THEN, SENT IT TO THE FRONTLINE!

BAM!

WHOOMP

JOSUI 4—0 WAKISAKA FIRST

THUM

JOSU

HUH

YOU SHOULD CHEER YOUR OWN SCHOOL'S TEAM!

HEY, GIRLS! WHO ARE YOU FOR?

WAKISAKA!!

YAAY!♡

JOSUI'S NO 10 IS GREAT!

COOL!

BITHER HE GIVES UP, ACCEPTING HIS AB LITY, OR HE .

...KEEPS AT IT DOING HIS BEST, NARROW NG THE GAP BETWEEN HIS COMPETITION, AND TRIES TO WIN THE NEXT TIME.

AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO BE DOING SO BADLY AGAINST A LOWER RANK?

ONCE A MAN LOSES AGAINST OVER-WHELMING POWER, WHAT DOES HE DO?

JERK!

CAPTAIN, CALM DOWN!

GRRRRRR

JEALOUS GUYS ARE SO LAME

WE CAN'T EVEN TELL WHICH TEAM'S THE REGULAR MEMBER OF TOKYO CHAMPION-SHIP!

'SIDES, EVEN F WE CHEER YOU, IT'S ALREADY HOPELESS.

WAKISAKA!!

HEH

PAM

AH.

AH.

FWAP

JOSUI

WHY ARE WE LOSING AGAINST SUCH A SLAPDASH TEAM?

WHY!?

THOSE SATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO WILL NEVER DEFEAT SHO'S TEAM, WHICH ALWAYS ASPIRES TO BE BETTER.

THEIR ATTITUDES ARE DIFFERENT

WE'RE NOT THE SAME TEAM WE WERE TWO MONTHS AGO.

WHOOSH

JOSUI, WHO LOST AGAINST MUSASHINOMORI DURING THE SPRING CHAMPIONSHIP ..

MA-SATO!

KRAKKK

JOSUI INTER-CEPTED AGAIN!

WHISHHH

...CHOSE THE LATTER.

BAMM

GO!

WHOOSH

WHISHH

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO...

...STOP HIM!

WHOOSH

SKROOMM

SHŌ, GO!

UNNHHHH!

THUMP

LOOK! HE TRIPPED SHŌ.

THE NO.9 OF JOSUI VANISHED AGAIN!

WAKISAKA

NOT AGAIN.

THERE HE IS!

STOP THAT GUY!

STOP HIM!

WAKISAKA

...TO LOSE AFTER DOING MY VERY BEST!

...BECAUSE I KNOW HOW AWFUL IT FEELS...

WHOOSH

I WON'T BE DEFEATED...

WHOOMP

JOSUI 6 — WAKISAKA FIRST 0

IF IT'S A DREAM, WAKE ME UP. .

THEY CAN'T BE JOSUI.

PLEASE TELL ME ISN'T HAPPENING.

SOMEONE LIKE THAT CAN'T WIN AGAINST TODAY'S JOSUI.

WITHOUT INVESTIGATING, YOU ASSUMED JOSUI WAS WEAK BECAUSE WE USED TO BE.

USING THAT FEELING TO PUSH US...

BY

...WE'VE BECOME STRONGER.

JOSUI

!!!

STAGE.53

Confidence and Anxiety

MUSASHINOMORI PRIVATE SCHOOL

HEH

THEY'VE GOT TO WIN THROUGH THE TOURNAMENT BEFORE THEY'LL MAKE IT TO TOKYO CHAMPION-SHIP

KNOCK IT OFF, SE JI. THEY ONLY MADE IT THROUGH THE DISTRICT PRIMARY... I MEAN THE LEAGUE MATCH.

SO WHAT ABOUT IT? ISN'T IT EXACTLY WHAT I TOLD YOU BEFORE, HUH, AKIRA? ♡

MUSASHINOMORI PRIVATE SCHOOL GK CAPTAIN KATSURŌ SHIBUSAWA

Y'KNOW THEY'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK IN BUILDING THEIR TEAM.

OH, SHUT UP AND GO AWAY!

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE.

HUMPH!

WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THEIR LUCK WILL LAST? HOW MANY GAMES WILL THEY HAVE TO WIN BEFORE THEY PLAY AGAINST US?

HEY, YOU SEE THAT TOURNAMENT LIST?

NOTHING.

YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT JOSUI? THEY JUST WON THE FIRST PLACE OF THE FOURTH BLOCK.

AND THE TEAM SUPPOSEDLY CONSISTS MAINLY OF THE EIGHTH GRADERS.

THEY WON WITHOUT LETTING THEIR OPPONENTS SCORE A POINT.

THEY NEVER MADE IT INTO THE LEAGUE BEFORE. BUT I HEAR THEY'RE REALLY STRONG NOW

WE'D BETTER GET SOME DATA ON THEM.

SINCE THEY'RE EIGHTH GRADERS THAT MEANS THEY'LL SHOW UP AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

WE CAN'T LOOK DOWN ON THEM.

THWIP

UNH-HHH.

2-A

THEN, WILL YOU TRANSLATE THE NEXT ONE?

I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY AGAINST THEM...

ACCORDING TO SEIJI, BESIDES HAVING A GREAT COACH, THEY'VE GOT A NEW GK. THAT'S A LOT OF POWER.

HMMM, HOW CAN I EXPLAIN?

ZZZZZ..

THWIIP

ZZZZZ...

I WANTED TO SEE WHAT IT TAKES TO WAKE HIM UP.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WHAT FUN!

NOTHING WAKES HIM UP NOT EVEN MY RUBBER BAND.

ZZZZ

HA!

WE'LL KEEP GOING AND REMEMBER THAT OUR GOAL IS BEATING MUSASHI-NOMORI!

GEEZ! YOU'RE A WORRY-WART AREN'T YOU?

...LIKE THERE MIGHT BE THIS HUGE TRAP OR SOME-THING ..

THINGS ARE GOING SO WELL, BUT I FEEL ALL WORRIED...

WHAT-EVER, BIG GUY

SHUT UP

IT'S LIKE MY TALENT WAS ASLEEP. BUT NOW IT'S BLOSSOMED OR MAYBE THIS IS MY TRUE TALENT AFTER ALL

WHAT'S WRONG, YŪSUKE?

THE PROBLEM S OUR DEFENSE THE WAY IT S NOW, WE W LL

THERE'S NO PROBLEM N OUR OFFENSE FWS AND MIDDLE FIELDERS ARE WORKING WELL TOGETHER.

TATSUYA.

YEAH, I CONSIDERED THAT, TOO.

...I'M WORRIED WE'RE GOING TO BE FACING STRONGER TEAMS.

IT WAS OBVIOUS IN THE DISTRICT PRIMARY THAT OUR OK AND OUR DFS DON'T WORK TOGETHER WELL. WE MANAGED TO KEEP OUR OPPONENT'S SCORE AT ZERO. BUT

AND SINCE YOU ARE WHY DON'T YOU SOLVE THE PROBLEM ON THE BLACK-BOARD?

PLEASANTLY CHATTING WITH YUKI? YOU SEEM RELAXED.

HE'S ACTING OUT OF SPITE CAUSE THE TEACHER ISN'T POPULAR.

IT'S TOO DIFFICULT HE WON'T SOLVE THAT

YES, TEACHER.

HEY, TATSUYA!

IN ONE WEEK, WE LL BE RUSHING NTO A TOUR-NAMENT MATCH.

WE SHOULD DEAL WITH THAT BEFORE THEN.

I KNOW YOU'RE EXHAUSTED, BUT SOCCER PLAYERS NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THEIR MAIN JOB IS TO BE STUDENTS.

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO CALL ME MS. KATORI?

OH, IT'S YOU, ANE-SAN!

YOU'RE SLACKING OFF. GO STAND OUTSIDE.

FOR THIS PROBLEM, USING THIS FORMULA THERE-FORE

2-B

C'MON, DON'T FALL ASLEEP, YOU MORON!

IT'S YOUR FAULT.

READ THIS WAY

I MEAN, I LIKE W NNING ...

..BUT

...I'M NOT ENJOYING PLAYING.

RECENTLY

...HOW DO I EXPLAIN IT...? IT'S LIKE SHŌ'S IGNORING US...

HE'S BECOME SO DISTANT.

PUFF

FISHHHH

AND SOME-THING'S GOING ON WITH DA CHI.

WHOOM

IS THIS RIGHT?

SKRITCHH!

DING DING

YAYYY TATSUYA!

SUCH A KNOW-IT-ALL.

YOU GOT IT.

HEH HEH

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, KOGA.

.. YOU KNOW

CAUSE I'M SO TIRED

YOU, TOO, YOSHI-HIKO

YOU LOOK PALE.

SOCCER TEAM

WHOOMP

NUTS!

WHAT'RE YOU DEFENSE GUYS DOING?

IT'S NOT GOOD

AS I EXPECTED

BUT HE'S RIGHT.

MASATO, YOU SHOULDN'T TALK TO THEM LIKE THAT--

CONCENTRATE IT WON'T MATTER HOW MANY POINTS WE GET IF OUR OPPONENTS SCORE, TOO.

GO AROUND!

DEFENSE!

I COUNT ON YOU OVER THERE

KAORU, THE LEFT!

HUH

NORO! HE'S COMING FROM THE RIGHT. DRIVE HIM FROM OUTSIDE!

BOOM

PAMP!

WHUMP

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

GET OUT! I CAN'T SEE THE BALL!

DON'T YOU THINK SHIGEKI IS BETTER SUITED AS A GK THAN DAICHI?

WHOOM

TALENT

LESS

RUUMBLE

SHŌ ...

RUMBLE

LET'S TAKE A 20-MINUTE BREAK

MMMMMM...

DA SH

!

DA-ICHI!

DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU'RE REPLACED?

YOU'RE NOT ONLY SLOW, YOU DON'T FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.

YOU DIDN'T CATCH IT DURING THE PRACTICE MATCH.

HMMM

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

JOSUI'S DFS WERE TOO EASY FOR KOKUBU SECOND.

SLUSHHH

THAT'S WHAT A GK DOES. IT'S WRITTEN HERE. NOT FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS IS YOUR FAULT, NOT MINE.

THE GK'S DIRECTION IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE LAST WORD.

IT--IT'S BECAUSE DAICHI SHOUTED SO SUDDENLY.

HE'S ONLY A 7TH GRADER. HE DOESN'T KNOW DAICHI'S REPUTATION.

SOMEBODY SHOULD STOP HIM.

HE'S A FOOL TO PICK A FIGHT WITH THE "CRUSHER."

I WOULD'VE IF YOU HADN'T INTER-FERED.

YOU COULDN'T STOP IT, EITHER!

NO, IT'S BOTH.

YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO MISUNDERSTAND YOU, DO YOU?

EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO BAD INTENTIONS, YOUR WORDS HURT THE OTHERS.

...DON'T MIND.

I...

SOCCER CAN'T BE PLAYED ALONE. IT'S A TEAM SPORT.

I KNOW YOU'RE INCREDIBLE, BUT YOU SHOULD THINK OF WHAT NORO AND THE OTHERS --

SHŌ!

I THINK IT'S GOOD IT HAPPENED EARLY.

IS IT OKAY TO LEAVE THEM ALONE?

WELL, MATSU-SHITA...

...

THIS TEAM'S INTERESTING.

HUH?

IF NOTHING CROPPED UP, I WAS PREPARED TO START IT MYSELF

THE ISSUE WITH THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DFs AND THE GK HAD TO COME UP SOONER OR LATER

WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH TELLING THE TRUTH?

BUT, IF I DIDN'T INTERFERE I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT'VE SAID

YOU'RE TOO STRAIGHT-FORWARD.

DON'T INTERFERE. SHŌ

THEY BRING OUT THE PROBLEMS AND FIND ANSWERS THEMSELVES.

BUT, MATSU-SHITA...!

LET'S LEAVE THEM ALONE.

GK OF MUSA-SHINOMORI PRIVATE SCHOOL ...

KATS-URŌ.

I SUPPOSE IF IT WAS KATSURŌ, HE WOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING WORTH-WHILE, BUT...

YOU REMEMBER SEIJI? HE VISITED THE OTHER DAY. HE'S A SENIOR IN THE SAME SCHOOL.

AMONG THE JUNIOR HIGHS, KATSURŌ IS A TOP CLASS GK.

KATS-URŌ?

WHERE'S DAICHI?

THE FOLLOWING DAY.

WHAT?

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SMILING.

WHY ARE YOU SMILING?

I CAN'T UNDER-STAND YOU.

I FIND SOCCER AND BEING GK... ... ANY-THING BUT FUN.

DAICHI ...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

...I'M SORRY.

TELL ME.

SMALL WHISTLE! THEATRE

!!

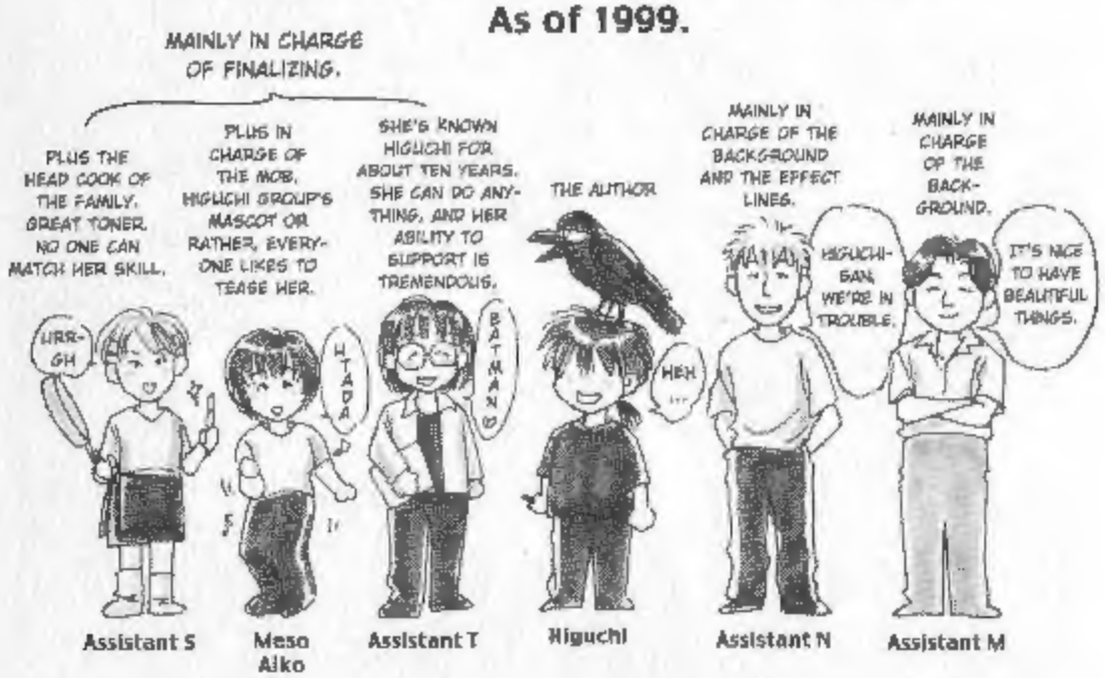
MANGA BY **SEKI**, ASSISTANT S

Soccer Fairy

SHE CHARMS THE SOCCER BOY'S HEART.

"Whistle!" Production Staff.

As of 1999.


MAINLY IN CHARGE OF FINALIZING.
PLUS THE HEAD COOK OF THE FAMILY. GREAT TONER. NO ONE CAN MATCH HER SKILL.
PLUS IN CHARGE OF THE MOB. HIGUCHI GROUP'S MASCOT OR RATHER, EVERY-ONE LIKES TO TEASE HER.
SHE'S KNOWN HIGUCHI FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS. SHE CAN DO ANY-THING, AND HER ABILITY TO SUPPORT IS TREMENDOUS.
THE AUTHOR
MAINLY IN CHARGE OF THE BACKGROUND AND THE EFFECT LINES.
MAINLY IN CHARGE OF THE BACK-GROUND.
URR-GH
HYADA
BATMAN
HEH...
HIGUCHI-SAN, WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE BEAUTIFUL THINGS.
Assistant S
Meso Aiko
Assistant T
Higuchi
Assistant N
Assistant M

It's a secret. Part 2.
It's a secret. Part 1.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY SECRETS.
OOPS.
IS THAT REALLY OKAY? HE'S OUR ENEMY TEAM'S ACE, YOU KNOW.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY SECRETS.
IF EVER THERE IS ONE...
IS THAT REALLY OKAY? HE'S OUR ENEMY TEAM'S ACE, YOU KNOW.
I STEPPED ON SOME-THING.
WHAT HAPPENED AT THE RIVERBED THEN...
DISGUISE !!
IF YOU DON'T GET IT, PLEASE READ VOLUME 4 ♥.
...BE EXPOSED TO ANYONE.
...MUST NOT...
IF THERE WAS, IT'S THAT YOU'RE THAT PERSON IN DISGUISE.
HEH♡

テニスの王子様
THE PRINCE of TENNIS™

Doubles Trouble Plagues Seishun!

viz media

Next in Whistle!

STEP BY STEP

Even when it means kicking ball with people you would never kick around with, Shô Kazamatsuri understands the concept of teamwork and won't quit until he leads Josui Junior High to victory!

The rest of Josui's squad, however, is still grappling with what it really means to be a team. With all the infighting and griping going on, Josui will have a hard time beating Iwa Tech, an opponent that takes pride in its impenetrable line of defense. Can Shô's crew finally put their individual differences aside to form a unified team?

Available September 2005!